



THE LINK
SUNDAY 12th December, 2021.
Third Sunday of Advent

A warm welcome to everyone whether you are regular or visiting and to those on Zoom.

HYMNS:

- 36** Hark the glad sound
563 Jesus Christ is waiting
557 Beauty for brokenness
719 Lord the light of your love is shining

COLLECT:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

EPISTOLARY READING:

Philippians 4.4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke.**

All: Glory to you, O lord

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

PRAYERS:

We pray for our communities and in particular this week those who live on: Brookfield Close, Brookfield View and Byron Avenue.

We pray for those who are sick or in need: Stephen, Wendy Hilling, Janet, Jean Wilson, Josh, John, Linda Blessington, Olwyn, Dorothy Bamber and Carol Bull.

From our book of remembrance, we remember in prayer: John Morrison Sparks, Nigel Duncan Robinson and Esther Monkhouse.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever.

All: Amen

NOTICES.

N.B. We continue to have all services and activities in Church with high levels of protection. Sanitising upon entry, and wearing a mask at all times when in church, except when singing, is compulsory from 10th December. Please register with the Welcome Team and observe social distancing.

Food bank items: Last chance to get much-needed food there in time for Christmas. Please put in box before Tuesday.

Decorating Help: We are decorating church after the morning service on 15th December. Any help would be gratefully received. Please bring scissors and any greenery you may have.

Confirmation Classes 2022: A service of confirmation is being planned for March 13th 2022, led by Bishop Jill, and confirmation classes will begin on Thursday 13th January 5pm to 6pm. If you are interested, please give your names and contact details to the church wardens or email kathrynpoole@parishbbs.co.uk.

Parish Services and Events:

12th December, 9.15am: 'Second Sunday' Service, Holy Trinity.

12th December, 10.30am: Third Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion, led by Bishop Phillip, Holy Trinity and on zoom.

12th December, 10.30am: Sunday Service at St Mark's.

15th December, 10am: Wednesday Service, Holy Trinity and on Zoom. Church decoration after the service.

15th December, 7pm: Concert by "Ladies of Note".

17th December, 2pm: Pre-School Nativity Play, Holy Trinity.

19th December, 10.30am: Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Holy Communion, led by Bishop Jill, Holy Trinity and on Zoom.

19th December, 10.30am: Sunday Service at St Mark's.

19th December, 6.30pm: 9 Lessons and Carols, Holy Trinity.

Dates for Your Diary 🌟🎄🌟:

22nd December, 10am: Wednesday Service, Holy Trinity and on Zoom.

22nd December, 7pm: Churchyard Carols, Holy Trinity.

24th December, 4pm: Crib Service, Holy Trinity.

24th December, 8pm: Christmas Vigil Communion Service, Holy Trinity.

25th December, 10.30am: Holy Christmas Day Communion, Holy Trinity.

26th December: No Sunday Service.

29th December: No Wednesday Service.

2nd January, 10.30 am: The Epiphany Sunday Service, Holy Trinity and on Zoom.

2nd January, 10.30am: Sunday Service at St Mark's.

Please email kathrynpoole@parishbbs.co.uk by Wednesday with any items for the Link.